



PETROGLYPHS

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WELCOME

Dear Colleagues and Friends,



The always-busy spring semester has come to a close and we have some important news to share. First, we're pleased to announce that Zac Garrett has joined our team as full-time NAGPRA program coordinator (see bio on this page). I have stepped down as NAGPRA director—a position

I've held for more than a decade—but will continue to consult on our repatriation work. Second, we're bidding farewell to our NAGPRA postdoc, Dr. Ricardo Higelin Ponce de León, who has accepted a tenure-track position at the College of Wooster. Ricardo has had a huge impact on our NAGPRA program and we're excited to see him advance in his academic career.

Have a fantastic summer!

Marc

Marc N. Levine
Associate Curator of Archaeology

BELL AWARD WINNER!



Jacoby Foust with his mom, Tonia Dagenette Foust

Congratulations to NAGPRA collections assistant Jacoby Foust, who was awarded the 2025 Department of Anthropology Robert Bell Award for Best Archaeology Student. This is an amazing honor! Jacoby will graduate in May with a bachelor of arts degree in anthropology

and will be attending the [Preservation Archaeology Museum Curation and Survey Field School](#), a collaborative field school with Archaeology Southwest, Western New Mexico University and the University of Arizona.

LEAD STORIES

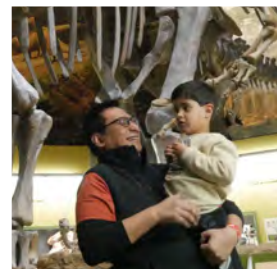
Welcome Zachary Garrett

In April, the museum welcomed Zachary Garrett, who will serve as the Sam Noble Museum's first full-time NAGPRA program coordinator. Zac earned his bachelor of science degree in Anthropology from Utah State University and then completed a master of arts degree in heritage and museum sciences at Texas Tech University. He brings a wealth of experience from his previous position as NAGPRA coordinator at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Welcome, Zac!



Zachary Garrett with his son Zeke

Congratulations and Farewell to Ricardo Higelin Ponce de León



Ricardo Higelin Ponce de León

We are very happy to announce that Ricardo Higelin Ponce de León has accepted a tenure-track position as assistant professor in the Department of Sociology & Anthropology at [The College of Wooster](#). Ricardo has served as NAGPRA postdoctoral researcher in the archaeology

department at the Sam Noble Museum since October of 2023. During his time at the museum, he spearheaded a new bioarchaeology-focused internship and trained more than a dozen students. Regarding his time at the Sam Noble Museum, Ricardo says, "The greatest lesson as a teacher is to embrace the joy of learning from your students." We wish him the best!

(cont. on pg. 2)

Good Luck Professor Bement



Lee Bement

We extend a hearty congratulations to Leland Bement, who retired after 33 years of service at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey. In February, the survey held a farewell gathering for Bement that included several former students and dozens of colleagues. Bement has been a long-term collaborator

and supporter of the museum. Artifacts recovered during his fieldwork, including the Cooper Bison Skull—the oldest painted object in North America—are highlighted in the museum's Hall of the People of Oklahoma. Bement recalls this discovery in a [recent video interview with the museum](#). Congrats, Lee!

Spiro Mounds Field Trip

In March, students completing internships in bioarchaeology had the opportunity to visit Spiro Mounds with Scott Hammerstedt, from the Oklahoma Archeology Survey. The students report that it was a fantastic opportunity to dive deeper into the rich culture and history that surrounds us every day at the Sam Noble Museum. This experience has opened their eyes to how vital documentation and context are in archaeology, which is something that is hard to capture in a book!

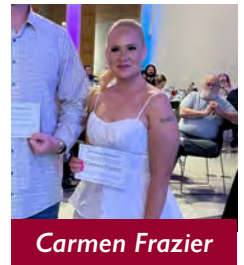


Scott Hammerstedt, Anna Vincent (Spiro site manager), Eli Muller, Jacoby Foust, Sam Whitten, Carmen Frazier, Abby Baldwin, and Aubrey Coffman (from left to right).

CONGRATULATIONS

Lindsey Jones, NAGPRA collections assistant, has moved on from the SNOMNH to become the associate registrar at the National Cowboy & Western Heritage Museum.

Carmen Frazier was recently recognized for completing over 350 hours as a volunteer in the archaeology department at the museum. She has become an important part of our NAGPRA team and we appreciate her efforts!



Carmen Frazier

NAGPRA intern Abigail Baldwin will be working with a cultural resource management firm this summer.



Eli Muller

NAGPRA intern Eli Muller will be attending the [Ka'Kabish Archaeological Research Project](#) Field School this summer through Trent University. The Maya site of Ka'Kabish is located approximately 10 kilometers from the larger center of Lamanai in north-central Belize. Eli notes he was the only American accepted

and finds the site's long occupation (800 BC to AD 1500) interesting, particularly regarding its survival through three political upheavals.

Graduate student Srija Repudi has joined us as the new student assistant archivist. Srija is currently a computer science graduate student at OU.

Sam Whitten was promoted to full time NAGPRA assistant. Sam is currently working on his second undergraduate degree, in anthropology, at OU.



Sam Whitten

IN THE NEWS

NAGPRA Publications

[Federal Register, Vol. 90, No. 10, pp. 4799-4800](#)

[Federal Register, Vol. 90, No. 62, pp. 14467-14468](#)

Spiro Field School

OU's Archaeological Field School will be held at Spiro Mounds from May 12-June 13, 2025.

[NAGPRA In the News!](#) Our repatriation efforts continue to meet new milestones in 2025.